

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a stent having an ~~roughened~~ exterior surface, an ~~roughened~~ interior surface, and ~~roughened~~ side surfaces, ~~wherein at least a portion of~~ at least one of the surfaces being roughened surfaces includes and including sandblast[[ed]]ing particles incorporated into the roughened surface; and

a polymer-free external coating consisting of a therapeutic agent disposed directly on ~~at the~~ at least one roughened surface of the stent.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces that are roughened includes the therapeutic agent.

4. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises Tacrolimus and the external coating is loaded directly to the roughened surface of the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces.

5. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the said stent comprises a stainless steel.

6. (Original) The stent system according to claim 1 further comprising a balloon catheter for delivering the stent.

7-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the roughened surfaces include sandblasted particles by sandblasting with a particle selected from sand, glass beads, or corundum.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim [[21]]1, wherein the roughened surfaces are devoid of burrs such that the roughened surfaces are uniformly roughened surfaces with increased flow dynamics and less turbulence.

24. (Currently Amended) The stent system according to claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the surfaces is devoid of burrs includes an electropolished surface.

25. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the roughened surfaces include sand particles.

26. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the roughened surfaces include glass beads.

27. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the roughened surfaces includes corundum particles.

28. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 27, wherein one or more corundum particles are disposed in one or more cavities.

29-30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises Tacrolimus.

32. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 31, wherein the Tacrolimus is coated onto a surface of one or more cavities of the roughened surfaces by spraying the therapeutic agent on said surfaces.

33. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 1, wherein the stent is annealed.

34. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state and configured for delivery of a therapeutic agent without the aid of a polymer coating, comprising;

a stent having a roughened ~~and-annealed~~ exterior surface, a roughened ~~and-annealed~~ interior surface, and roughened ~~and-annealed~~ side surfaces, ~~wherein~~ at least a portion of the roughened ~~and-annealed~~ surfaces is repassivated and includes sandblasted corundum sandblasting particles incorporated into the roughened surface; and

a polymer-free external coating disposed directly on at least a portion of the roughened ~~and-annealed exterior~~ surface of the stent, the external coating comprising a therapeutic agent and forming the outermost peripheral surface of the stent system.

35. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the interior surface and side surfaces that is roughened includes the therapeutic agent.

36. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 35, wherein the external coating comprises Tacrolimus loaded directly to the roughened surface of the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces.

37. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 34, wherein the roughened and annealed exterior surfaces include the sandblasted particles in one or more cavities.

38. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 37, wherein the particles comprise sand, glass beads, or corundum.

39. (Currently Amended) A stent system for placement in a body lumen which is expandable from a contracted state to an expanded state, comprising:

a stent having a roughened and annealed exterior surface, a roughened and annealed interior surface, ~~wherein~~ at least a portion of the roughened surfaces is repassivated and includes sandblasted corundum sandblasting particles incorporated into the roughened surface; and

a polymer-free external coating disposed on and abutting at least a portion of the exterior surface and interior surface, including the corundum sandblasting particles, of the stent, the external coating comprising a therapeutic agent forming an outermost peripheral surface of the stent system at the at least a portion of the exterior surface and interior surface.

40. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 39, wherein at least a portion of the side surfaces that are roughened include the therapeutic agent.

41. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 40, wherein the exterior surface, the interior surface, or the side surfaces are coated with Tacrolimus as the therapeutic agent loaded directly to the roughened surfaces.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent system according to claim 39, wherein the sandblasted particles comprise sand, glass beads, or corundum.